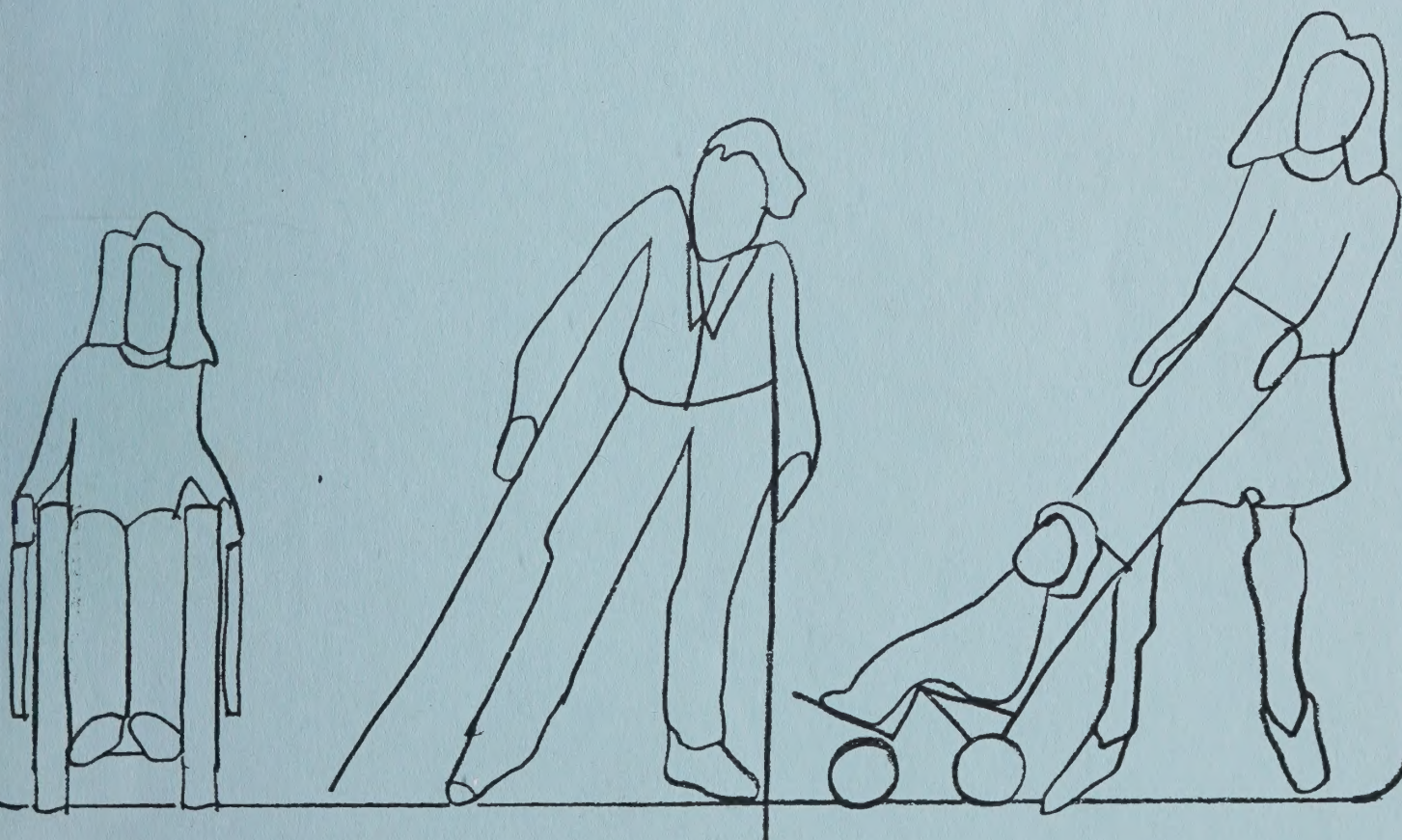


WHOLE PARK ACCESS

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SUMMARY

SUMMARY OF WHOLE PARK ACCESS STUDY

An important policy of the East Bay Regional Park District Master Plan of 1988 states the following:

"As part of its Master Plan implementation, the District will respond to the outdoor recreational needs of all park users including those of the special elements of the population that it serves. These elements include, but are not limited to, elderly, disabled, and economically disadvantaged persons.

The District will provide access for people with disabilities in accordance with current applicable laws and regulations for accessibility. The District will continually evaluate accessibility of existing facilities and make every effort to retrofit these facilities to provide increased access. When planning for access to parklands, the District will encourage input from interested individuals and groups, and will make a strong effort to keep informed of applicable ideas that other agencies develop. In promotional materials, the District will include information on accessible parkland features to encourage use." (Master Plan-1988, pg 18)

The District serves a two county population that includes the largest number of disabled people in the nation. In response to the Master Plan policy and the District's commitment to serving all of the region's residents including people with disabilities, the District has embarked on an extensive program to make its parklands accessible. The overall effort is called Whole Park Access. The program has many aspects including an on-going District-wide study of access to existing park facilities, awareness trainings for staff, the continuation of the Parks Express bus program, and specific projects at individual parks to improve access.

The first step in the Whole Park Access program was a survey by the Planning Division of District facilities from a disabled-accessible viewpoint. The resulting document, the "Whole Park Access" study, adopted October 20, 1987 serves both as an inventory of current levels of accessibility and as a stepping-off point for planning and designing additional accessibility into the parks. The goal of the study was to improve the physical accessibility of existing park facilities by identifying the current degree of accessibility to facilities and assessing what could be done to increase their availability to park visitors.

The study consists of an inventory and evaluation of each existing park facility and recommendations for providing increased accessibility to District facilities. These recommendations include modifications to existing facilities, such as the provision of wheelchair accessible restrooms, designated parking spaces, and accessible paths between facilities. Because of the large number of trails within the District, only those trails which are highly accessible or have the best potential to be accessible to most persons with disabilities, are included in the study. For the purposes of the study, access has been addressed for persons with physical disabilities, such as people who are wheelchair users, blind, deaf, aged and people with cardiac and respiratory problems.

Concept of Accessibility

It is difficult to estimate the number of park visitors who will benefit from increased disabled accessibility, but the potential is enormous. Approximately a third of the residents of Oakland and Berkeley are disabled due to age, impaired vision or hearing, progressive physical disabilities, or other reasons. Persons who are disabled visit most of the District's parks on a year round basis; their numbers are continually increasing, and groups and individuals are becoming more vocal in their requests and demands for accessible facilities.

The need for more highly accessible facilities will be increasing in the foreseeable future, as studies show that the median age of the population in the two county area is on the rise.* As the East Bay population increases so will the number of people needing assistance with parkland access. Foresight demands that existing facilities be improved and future facilities be designed for maximum possible accessibility.

Most people will be impaired at some point in their lives due to aging, temporary injury, pregnancy, or by some other limiting condition such as pushing a stroller. By making facilities more accessible to people who are disabled, they will be more accessible to all users and everyone will benefit.

The concept of improving access for persons with disabilities has become increasingly important during the last decade. Legal decisions, technological advances in mobility for persons with disabilities and changes in the way that society perceives "disability" reflect this growing awareness. As a result there is increased participation by persons with disabilities in all aspects of life, including outdoor recreation.

In 1968, California passed broad civil rights and access laws, and that same year, Congress passed the Architectural Barriers Act (1968), requiring that facilities receiving federal funds must provide access to all people. California addresses facilities access in publicly funded projects under California Government Code Sections 4450/4458 and 7250/7252. The general laws requiring facilities access have been translated into specific building regulations in Title 24 of the California Administrative Codes. It states in the Administrative section that all new and renovated facilities must be made accessible according to the code requirements.

It is evident to park planners and designers that, while the intent of the law is clear concerning park access for people with disabilities, the Title 24 regulations do not address specific design requirements which will secure these results. The State of California and other agencies are still in the process of defining requirements which will respond to the needs of persons with disabilities who use outdoor recreational facilities, such as campsites, picnic areas, and trails.

*Source of this information is from Projections-87, by ABAG.

Ideally, all existing facilities within the District should be accessible in accordance with current standards and regulations. Many park facilities were built before the existence of public access laws and current regulations. Because of environmental or economic limitations they have not yet been upgraded. The purpose of the study was to inventory and evaluate these existing facilities, and to recommend modifications which will provide increased accessibility.

Although, the inventory, evaluation and recommendations contained in the study reflect current concepts, standards and regulations which define "accessibility", the study does not make a determination of the District's compliance with the Regulations for the Accommodation of the Disabled, for the State Building Code, Title 24, Parts 2, 3, and 5. These requirements will be addressed as the District undertakes specific projects. In general, "accessibility" is defined by certain physical characteristics of the site, such as slopes of paths, surface materials, and structural features. "Accessible" sites include a full range of interconnected accessible facilities. They have designated parking for people with disabilities. Pathways between the parking and recreation facilities are accessible to wheelchair users. Toilets, drinking fountains and recreation facilities are fully accessible and conveniently located.

The study was conducted without any assumptions about what can or cannot be accessible. With increased attention to improving construction methods and the design of mobility aids, the standards and regulations for accessibility in outdoor recreation are evolving. Therefore, the inventory and the concepts, standards, and regulations reflected in the study are developed to address accessibility in the existing park environment. In the future there will be more opportunities for creating additional access.

Study Procedure

The study began by consulting with representatives of organizations specializing in access, and reviewing current concepts, standards and regulations which define accessibility. A list of publications which proved useful as guidelines for the design as accessible facilities are listed in Appendix C. We toured several parklands with Phyllis Cangemi of Whole Access, a specialist in the field of park access, in order to become more aware of the barriers to people with disabilities when they visit a park.

The next step was an on-site visit to each facility, where we observed park use, interviewed users and inventoried and evaluated each park facility for its existing degree of access. Facilities which have existing or potential opportunities for use by persons with disabilities were identified. Where increased access to park facilities is needed, modifications to park facilities were recommended.

The outline in Appendix A is a "checklist" of facilities which was used to organize the information gathered during field observations. This same outline is used to present the results of our study as shown in Chapter II. "Park Evaluations" of the study.

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Appendix B is a list of parks containing facilities which were found to have a satisfactory level of accessibility to many persons with disabilities. Throughout the District there is a wide range of facilities with a high degree of accessibility, but the study shows that a great deal of improvements are still needed provide increased access to District facilities.

Implementation

The study has proven useful for several aspects of the Whole Park Access Program. A database has been developed which list specific construction projects that fulfill the recommendations of the study. The database has been used to prioritize projects, identify those which do not have funding, and to serve as a guide to complete the recommendations of the study. High priority projects without funding in place are listed in Appendix D.

The study is used as a guide in order to incorporate policies for accessibility into the Land Use-Development Plan process which insures the long-range planning and development of accessible facilities within existing parks. The study is also utilized in the production of publications which identify and describe the accessibility of the parks throughout the District.

The study will be continually updated by the Operations staff as improvements are completed in existing parks. Revisions will include accessibility information on newly developed park facilities.

The Whole Park Access Study has served as the first step in the initiation of the Whole Park Access Program; the District's commitment to making the East Bay Regional Parks accessible to everyone.



APPENDIX A

GENERAL OUTLINE OF EVALUATIONS

PARK NAME: (by park type, then by alphabetical order)

Staging Area (by alphabetical order)

o Park Entrance

General:	park hours; access roads
Park Information:	kiosk/no kiosk; brochure box/no brochure box
Bus Service:	no service/description; accessibility?
Recommendations:	suggested modifications to provide increased accessibility

o Parking Lot(s)

Name of Lot (by alphabetical order)

General: what facilities parking lot serves

Drinking

Fountain(s): none/location of closest D.F./structure; approach surface from parking lot

*inaccessible features of structure and approach

Restroom(s):

none/location of closest R.R./structure; approach surface from parking

*any inaccessible features of structure and approach

Trail Access:

description of approach from parking; type of gate

*inaccessible features

Parking Area:

surface; # of designated spaces for persons with disabilities

*inaccessible feature of lot

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Recommendations: | suggested modifications to provide increased accessibility |
|------------------|--|
- o Facility (by alphabetical order)
- | | |
|---|---|
| <u>Name of Facility</u> (by alphabetical order)
General: | Do the programs include people with disabilities

unique features of facility |
| Parking Lot(s): | none/location of closest lot/surface;
of designated spaces for persons with disabilities; approach to facilities from parking lot

*inaccessible features of lot or approach |
| Drinking Fountain(s): | none/location of closest D.F./structure; approach to D.F. from facilities

*inaccessible features of structure and approach |
| Restroom(s): | none/location of closest R.R./structure; approach to R.R. from facility

*inaccessible features of structure and approach |
| Facility: | structure; approach from other facilities

*inaccessible features of structure and approach |
| Recommendations: | suggested modifications to provide increased accessibility |
- o Picnic Areas
- | | |
|---|---|
| <u>Name of Picnic Areas</u> (by alphabetical order)
General: | reservable/not reservable; family site/group site |
|---|---|

	amenities of picnic area
Parking Lot(s):	<p>none/location of closest lot/surface; # of designated spaces for persons with disabilities; approach to picnic area from lot</p> <p>*inaccessible feature of lot or approach</p>
Drinking Fountain(s):	<p>none/location of closest D.F./structure approach to D.F. from facility</p> <p>*inaccessible features of structure and approach</p>
Restroom(s):	<p>none/location of closest R.R./structure; approach to R.R. from facility</p> <p>*inaccessible features of structure and approach</p>
Picnic Area(s):	<p># of tables & structure; # of BBQ & structure; surface beneath picnic area; shaded; approach to picnic area from other facilities</p> <p>*inaccessible features of picnic area and approach</p>
Recommendations:	suggested modifications to provide increased accessibility

o Trails

<u>Name of Trail</u> (by alphabetical order)	
General:	brief description of trail
Trail Head(s):	location of closest parking lot; trail access/approach to trail from parking lot

Use:	Who uses trail? *possible conflicts with users with disabilities
Length:	distance of trail *possible inaccessibility because of distances
Width:	width of surface trail *possible inaccessibility because of narrowness of trail
Slope:	greatest % of slope and its length along the usable distance *possible inaccessibility because of cross slope
Cross Slope:	greatest % slope going from edge to edge of trail *possible inaccessibility because of cross slope of trail
Surface:	Surface of trail *possible inaccessibility because of surface conditions of trail
Hazards:	i.e., dangerous edges; poison oak; heat *possible inaccessibility because of hazards along trail
Bench(es):	none/frequency of benches along trail; approach *inaccessible features of benches and approach

Drinking
Fountain(s):

none/frequency of drinking fountains
along trail/structure; approach

*inaccessible features of drinking
fountains and approach

Restroom(s):

none/frequency of restrooms along
trail/structure; approach

*inaccessible features of restrooms
and approach

Recommendations:

suggested modifications to provide
increased accessibility



APPENDIX B

FACILITIES WITH ACCESSIBLE FEATURES

Briones Regional Park:

parking at Bear Creek Staging Area

Chabot (Anthony) Regional Park:

parking, coffee shop, boat rental, fishing dock, picnicking, trail access at Lake Chabot Marina; parking, driving range at Willow Park Public Golf Course

Contra Loma Regional Park:

parking, beach house, swimming beach

Coyote Hills Regional Park:

parking at visitor's center, visitor's center, boardwalk, trail access

Del Valle Regional Park:

all parking, beach house, amphitheater, visitor's center, trail access

Diablo Foothills/Castle Rock Regional Park:

parking

Garin Regional Park:

parking, picnicking, visitor's center, trail access

Redwood Regional Park:

parking, trail access at Redwood Gate

Tilden (Charles L.) Regional Park:

Brazil Building; Environmental Education Center; parking at Golf Club, Lake Anza, E.E.C., Little Train, Merry-Go-Round, Inspiration Point; trail access at Lake Anza, E.E.C., Inspiration Point

Ardenwood Regional Preserve:

parking, classroom, displays, garden, train station, general store

Don Castro Regional Recreation Area:

parking

Kennedy Grove Regional Recreation Area:

parking, senior center

Roberts Regional Recreation Area:

parking, swimming pool

Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area:

parking, beach house

Temescal Regional Recreation Area:

parking beach house, day care center, picnicking, trail access

Antioch Regional Shoreline:

parking, fishing pier

Crown (Robert W.) Memorial Regional Shoreline:

parking, beach house, viewing platform, picnicking, trail access, visitor's center, tidal pool viewing ramp

Martinez Regional Shoreline:

parking

Miller (George, Jr.)/Knox (John T.) Regional Shoreline:

parking, trail access, picnicking

Point Pinole Regional Shoreline:

parking, trail access at park entrance; parking at fishing pier, fishing pier

San Leandro Bay Regional Shoreline:

parking, boardwalk, fishing platform, picnicking, trail access at Arrowhead Marsh; parking, cafe, picnicking at Doolittle Drive; parking, trail access at Garretson Point

Lafayette/Moraga Regional Trail:

parking, trail access at Olympic Blvd. Staging Area

APPENDIX C

References to Design Guidelines and Criteria

The following publications were referred to in the conduction of the study. They may be of further assistance in future projects implementing the findings of the study. They have been organized into categories which will be helpful when confronted with a specific accessibility project.

Literature is abbreviated as follows:

- (AF) Accessible Fishing: A Planning Handbook; Resource Management and Development Division, New Mexico Natural Resources Department, Suite 129, Villagra Building, 408 Galisteo, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-1147
- (AR) Access to Recreation: Design Criteria for Eliminating Architectural Barriers (1981); Division of Outdoor Recreation. Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Indianapolis, Indiana
- (GDA) A Guide to Designing Accessible Outdoor Recreation Facilities (1980), Nina M. Bunin, David Jasperse and Susan Cooper for the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service (National Park Service). United States Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.
- (HA) Handicap Access, United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Denver Service Center, Division of Progressional Support, Branch of Professional Consultants, Denver, Colorado 80255
- (IHP) Interpretation for Handicapped Persons (1975), A handbook for Outdoor Recreation Personnel, Jacques Beechel, Dr. Donald Field, National Park Service, Pacific Northwest Region, Cooperative Park Studies Unit, College of Forest Resources, AR-10, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98195
- (PAD) Parkland Access: for the Disabled; Greater Vancouver Regional District Parks, 4330 Kingsway, Burnaby, B.C., Canada V5H 4G8
- (RPR) Retrofitting Public Restrooms for Accessibility, Department of Rehabilitation, Communications Office, 830 "K" Street, Sacramento, California 95814, Telephone (916) 455-8638
- (24) Regulations for the Accommodation of the Disabled in Public Accommodations, from the State Building Code Title 24, Parts 2, 3 and 5 (1984); Office of the State Architect, Access Compliance Unit, 1500 - 5th Street, Sacramento, California 95814

Amphitheaters

(GDA) pages 27-30

Buildings

(HA) page 4

(AR) pages 15-16

(GDA) pages 11-14

(AR) pages 35-36

Fishing Docks

(AF) pages 60-69

(GDA) pages 35-38

(AR) page 33

(AR) page 51

Parking Lots

(AF) pages 42-45

(PAD) pages 11-14

(IHP) pages 38-49

(HA) pages 7-8

(AR) pages 5-6

Benches

(HA) pages 2-3

(GDA) pages 35-36

(AR) page 33

Camping Areas

(AF) pages 80-87

(HA) page 14

(AR) page 25

Human Dimension

(AF) page 96

(IHP) page 48

(GDA) pages 3-5

Pathways

(AF) pages 46-59

(PAD) pages 21-23

(IHP) pages 40-43

(GDA) pages 15-26

(AR) pages 49-50

Boating Docks

(AF) pages 70-75

Drinking Fountains

(AF) page 87

(IHP) page 45

(HA) page 7

Information System

(AF) page 32-41

(HA) page 3

Phones

(IHP) page 46

(AR) page 26

APPENDIX D

HIGH PRIORITY WHOLE PARK ACCESS PROJECT UNFUNDED

Picnic Area Improvements

Alameda Creek Trail (Beard Road Staging Area)
Ardenwood
Briones (Bear Creek Meadows)
Contra Loma
Coyote Hills
Kennedy Grove
Martinez Shoreline
Point Pinole
Redwood (Redwood Gate)
Tilden (Indian Camp, Inspiration Point)

Restroom Facilities

Briones (Bear Creek Meadows)
Chabot (Family Camps)
Contra Loma (Changing Rooms)
Coyote Hills
Point Pinole
Roberts
Tilden (Nimitz Way Trail Head)

Swim Ramps

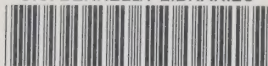
Cull Canyon
Temescal

Benches Along Trails

Alameda Creek Trail
Contra Costa Canal Trail
Coyote Hills (Bay View and Choceny Trail)
Redwood (Paved Portion of Stream Trail)
Tilden (Nimitz Way)

Interpretive Material

Coyote Hills (Choceny Trail)
Sibley (Overlook at Visitor's Center)



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